

From:
Mercurial Zine!
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Please send this to my good friend:



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Mercurial Zine!

issue #2

50¢

Red Five



LESS
THAN
JAKE



WELCOME BACK!

Welcome to another issue of Mercurial Zine! It's been yet another wild ride trying to get this done, but it is finally ready for you to curl up with. This whole concept would not have been possible without the support and inspiration from the following people (as usual in no particular order): Lance A, the Mighty Mighty Bosstones, Sheila R at Nasty Little Man, Isaac Green and is magnificent Skalars, Steve at Moon Records, Less Than Jake, Hepcat, Love Garden, Groove Farm, Recycled Sounds, Aaron C, Dan C, Joe B, Kevin H, Sean N, Kim F, Agents Secret, Pigtales, and School Girl, Skinnerbox NYC, Bouncing Souls, Knigole, Matt R, Phil K, Brandon B, Papa Chubby, Doug P, Greg J, Alan, Turley, Jonathan J, the LoWBRoWS, Bill Wennington Fan Club, the JCCF, Intact, all the S.H.A.R.P.'s, Hooligans, punks, and rudies in the land and you for buying this paper!

Special thanks to:

Anne, Amy, David, Jamie, the Gadjits, and Red Five

And a Very Very special thanks to the people that remind all of us kids to stay in school!

The two drunks outside of the BossToneS show at the Granada, I would like to give you two fellas a big hurrah for what you are doing, making total fools of yourselves just so kids will stay in school.

Mercurial Zine Office Staff

writer, layout, art, editor, all around swell guy
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the lovely interns

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Well kids, that about does it for this issue...Again thank you to everyone out there that helped, and I thank you for giving me your time...Hopefully issue three will be out a little faster than this one, but no promises...Even though I don't have it started, it is looking to be a good issue, I'll have interviews with Skinnerbox NYC, Reel Big Fish, Skeletones, Scofflaws, and who knows what else keep an eye out for it...

Thanx again, be true to your scene, and I'll see you at the shows we's outta here!

-Rob

BYE-BYE!

The SIMPSONS

if it's one thing I really love, it's the Simpsons, in each issue, I'll try and include some Simpsons stuff, in this issue, many of the sayings on the chalkboard from the opening credits

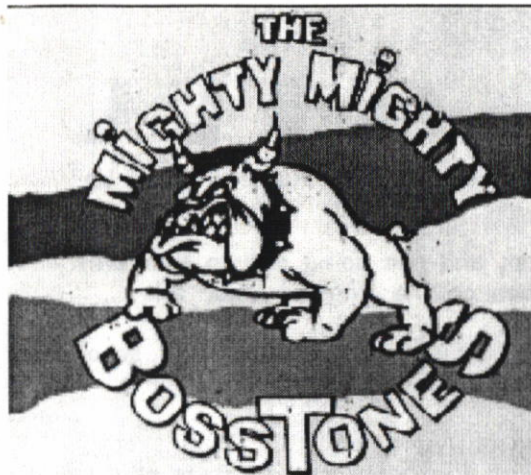
I will not waste chalk
I will not skateboard in the halls
I will not burp in class
I will not instigate revolution
I will not draw naked ladies in class
I did not see Elvis
I will not call my teacher "Hot Cakes"
Garlic gum is not funny
They are laughing at me, not with me
I will not yell "Fire" in a crowded classroom
I will not encourage others to fly
I will not fake my way through life
Tar is not a plaything
I will not Xerox my butt
It's potato, not potatoe
I will not trade pants with others
I am not a 32 year old woman
I will not do that thing with my tongue
I will not drive the principal's car
I will not pledge allegiance to Bart
I will not sell school property
I will not cut corners
I will not get very far with this attitude
I will not make flatulent noises in class
I will not belch the National Anthem
I will not sell land in Florida
I will not grease the monkey bars
I will not hide behind the Fifth Amendment
I will not do anything bad ever again
I will not show off
I will not sleep through my education
I am not a dentist
Spitwads are not free speech
Nobody likes sunburn slappers
High explosives and school don't mix
I will not bribe Principal Skinner
I will not squeak chalk
I will finish what I start
"Bart Bucks" are not legal tender
Underwear should be worn on the inside
The Christmas Pageant does not stink
I will not torment the emotionally frail
I will not carve gods

RUMOR MILL

Note: Usually, I'm good at checking sources, but sometimes the Rumor Mill can be wrong.

- *The Nuclear Family decided not to break up, and are going out on tour with Goldfinger in 1997, they might also been seen on the Warped Tour this summer.
- *By the time you read this, the Gadjits will be finished recording their second album, i've heard a lot of the new stuff, and it sounds great. Look for a March release.
- *For all of you that have M2 (the offspring of Mtv), look for videos from the Toasters and Let's Go Bowling along with the Stubborn All-Stars and Scofflaws
- *Look for a new album by Bad Manners in February
- *Skinnerbox is finishing out their tour and plan to start recording their new album "What you got and What you don't got" in early 1997 Look for it on Moon Records.
- *Isaac Green and the Skalars have their first full-length album out now on Moon Records called "Skoolin' with the Skalars"
- *Moon Ska has a new e-mail server, so if you have been trying to reach them, the new main address is now moonska@walrus.com
- *For all the kids in KC, the chance of a new Daily Grind looks very bleak, Gregg has had a hard time finding a new location...if you have any ideas please get them to me, and I'll try and pass them along to him...
- *Squirtgun's second full-length should be out by the time you read this.
- *The Hi-Fives have broken up after an on-stage fight during a show in New York.
- *From the same people that do the Simpsons, a new animated Blues Brothers series will feature an animated Laurel Aitken.
- *Madness might be going out for one more U.S. tour with INXS and Tears for Fears
- *Paul Ackerman has left the Pietasters, As of press time, there was no reason why.

Mercurial Zine is a publication that comes out whenever I get around to it...If you have a problem with the contents in these pages please tell me your feelings... while the opinions expressed in this publication are mine and mine alone, they aren't directed towards any one in particular.(Unless otherwise noted)..the opinions expressed by Mercurial Zine!, are not necessarily the same as the advertisers or bands' so don't take it out on them! any questions, comments, problems, cookies, gifts, etc. can be sent to our home office: 10951 Nieman Road Overland Park, Kansas 66210



I had the major privilege of talking with Dicky Barret of Mighty Mighty BossTones fame on November 10 at the Granada. He had a lot to say so please read on and enjoy. Oh yes, thanx to my good friends Anne and Amy for helping me on this one.

For legal Purposes, state your name and position in the band.
D: My name is Dicky Barret and I'm Centerfielder.

So you don't decide to kick my ass, please tell me if there is a question you hate getting asked.

D: I don't mind any questions...I get asked certain questions a lot. Because of what I do, that's the price I pay, people are curious.

I heard that you're on a new compilation that's about to come out, please enlighten us.

D: It's called 'Safe & Sound' and it's on Big Rig Records, which is a label started by the BossTones. The money made by this album will go to charities that benefit safety in women's health clinics and battered women shelters. The shootings had a major affect on the city, no one had much to hope for. In the wake of the tragedy, someone suggested the comp, we thought it could come out on our label, and a year later it's out (read more about this further in this issue-rob).

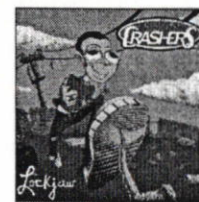
Is this going to be nationally released, or just in Boston?

D: Yeah, actually it's on Mercury/Big Rig. We want to make money for things like Battered women shelters. A large portion is going to make sure this doesn't happen again.



The Bluebeats: Dance With Me (Moon Records)

I was looking for a new sound in ska, and I finally found it in the Bluebeats. They are a third wave band, but sound like they're straight out of the first wave of ska. This is a rad disc that no ska lover should be without. This is one of the best releases I have heard in a while.



The Dance Hall Crashers: Lockjaw (510 Records)

I am not going to look at this as a ska album or a punk album, everyone else has done this...I like this album, Elyse's and Karina's vocals sound better than ever on this album, but I will say if you really liked them as a 'ska' band as opposed to what people call them now, you might not like it. This is a good album, and you should give it a chance.



Reel Big Fish: Turn the Radio Off (Mojo Records)

If you like ska with powerful horns, check this out. Reel Big Fish is a great band, that seems to be heavily influenced by third wave bands. I can't place the exact influences, but this record is definitely worth your cash...



Red Five: Flash (Interscope Records)

I can't stop listening to this album...Jenni and Betty are one of the best female duos I have heard in a while. Red Five is one of my favorite pop-punk bands. This album has great songs to sing along with, or just listen to...I can't tell you how much I dig this album...Buy this for good punk!



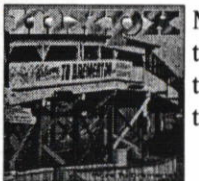
Screaming Weasel: Bark Like A Dog (Fat Wreck Chords)

Ben Weasel and company are back, but this album almost seems to be a continuation of the Riverdales album...I really like this, but if you are a die hard fan of the old records, this might not strike your fancy...I love it, my only complaint is that it's way too short, just shy of 35 minutes...



Skandalous: I've Gotcha Covered (Shanachie)

This is an album that has previously released stuff on it, but if you don't have this stuff it's a great album...It has the Toasters, Jinkies, Ruder than You, Skatalites, and Skavoovie, among others. As the title suggests, it is all cover tunes it has everything from Secret Agent Man to the Sanford and Son Theme song, even some cartoon themes...Pick this up for fun ska!



MxPx: Move to Bremerton (Tooth & Nail Records)

this is my first introduction to these guys, it's a five song EP that has four unreleased tracks and one live track...They seem to be a really good punk band, and I can't wait to learn more about them...



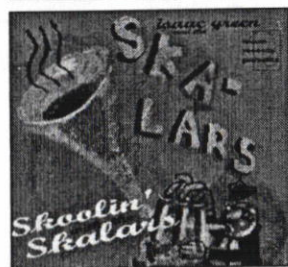
The Toasters: New York Fever (Moon Records)
This is my second favorite Toasters album. The thing that's cool about the toasters is that they have their own distinct sound, and they manage to keep it throughout an entire recording. This disc is no exception. It starts off fast and upbeat and stays consistent the entire rest of the way. Check out the title track and Pool Shark.

Hepcat: Scientific (BYO Records)

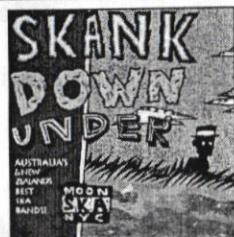
Hepcat is one of the best kept secrets of ska. If you like trad-ska, rocksteady, or good ska, this is a disc you need to check out. This is their second release and they don't have any sophomore jinx on this album. Hepcat throws a curve ball by having two lead singers sharing the duties, but they are both great. This is a good mix of slow and mid-tempo stuff.

Bouncing Souls: Manical Laughter (Byo Records)

This is a great punk album... The boys start off with an awesome song (I am a van) and ends with a great song (the ballad of Johnny x). Most of the songs in between are awesome as well. My favorite is probably Born to Lose. It's hard to do what you do live in a recording studio, but Bouncing Souls do it quite well. Pick up this album.



Isaac Green and the Skalars: Skoolin' with the Skalars (Moon Records) After a long wait, Isaac and the Skalars finally have a full-length album out, and it doesn't miss. It's hard to explain their sound, they're trad, but not. Whatever they are, they sound great, Jessica and Amy's vocals are great, Isaac back-ups are great...One of the most talented bunch of kids in the Midwest! For good ska, invest your money in this album!



Skank Down Under (Moon Records) know Moon takes a lot of heat for their compilations, but all they're trying to do is get bands out into the scene... This is a good album though, while it does have a couple low spots, most of it is good, I can't wait to hear more from the Porkers and Dr Raju.

☆ Can you talk about the split with Taang! Records?

☆ D: We didn't want that to happen, but when it was first happening, I begged
☆ him and told him that things need to be fair. He was forcing us to get day
☆ jobs and quit the band. There was a lot of money being made, We didn't
☆ want all of it, but there was a certain percentage we needed in order to
☆ continue the BossToneS. The owner is probably the most crooked and dishonest
☆ man in the business, and the problem with that is that he hides under the
☆ blanket of 'I'm an independent label,' and in the meantime, he is ripping off
☆ consumers, bands, and employees, and he doesn't care. The minute you point a
☆ finger, he cries '\$ellout, you're all about money. One of the things he does is,
☆ he'll change artwork on an album cover. So the consumer will walk into a store
☆ and and see the album, they'll think that they don't have it, buy it, then when
☆ they get home, they'll realize that they already have it. We bought him cars
☆ and houses with the money he made off of the first two albums. At one point
☆ he wouldn't put out an album when we were about to go on tour, that was an
☆ important time to put out the album, we needed something to support the tour
☆ with. All that aside, we didn't want to do it. We talked to a lot of major
☆ labels, and they said that they wouldn't fuck with us. It was the scariest move
☆ we ever made, but also the best. It isn't family like we wanted but...

☆ There are a couple of things that you have done in the past couple of years
☆ that were unexpected. You showed up on the Lollapalooza tour, then you did
☆ Clueless. Why?

☆ D: The \$ellout question!

☆ No, I'm not accusing you of anything, I just wondered why.

☆ D: Just kidding. Perry Farrel asked us to do Lollapalooza, and we did it. That
 ☆ wasn't a typical BossToneS summer to say the least. Amy Heckerling asked us
 ☆ to do 'Clueless' we went to the set, did a day of shooting, and that was it. It
 ☆ was harder to watch than actually do though. When we started the
 ☆ BossToneS, we agreed to see whatever doors opened up. We don't want to do
 ☆ the same thing over and over. We were asked to do the 'Clueless' TV series,
 ☆ but we didn't want to be known as the 'Clueless' band.

☆ My friend Anne: The Muffs were on the first episode of the TV show so you're in good company.

☆ Is it strange looking into a crowd and seeing a mix of rudies and frat/jocks?

☆ D: It's weird looking into any crowd. I try to bring a crowd together, it's not this big elitist thing. I don't want jerks there, I'm sure that there are some. But, hopefully if he goes in a jerk he'll come out a little more knowledgeable.

☆ What's in store for the next year or so? ☆
 ☆ D: We'll finish the tour, then we have a new album out in February. ☆

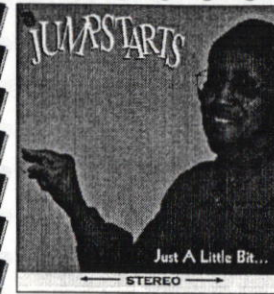
★ Thank you so much for the interview Dicky! Look for the new BossToneS ★
★ album in March, in the mean time, check out their compilation 'Safe and Sound' ★
★ in stores now. ★

UPCOMING SHOWS TO KS

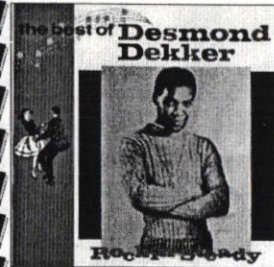
- March 6 Rev. Horton Heat (bottleneck)
March 7 LoWBROwS, Anti-State (Gee Coffee)
March 12 Squirtgun (replay lounge)
March 16 the Business (bottleneck)
March 28 D Generation (bottleneck)
March 29 Unsteady (bottleneck)
April 26 MxPx (Granada)

On tour, but no promises

- *Bosstones/Pietasters *Fishbone/Skeletones
*Isaac Green and the Skalars
*Gadjits *Screeching Weasel



The Jumpstarts: Just a Little Bit... (Baron Records)
This is rad Trad-ska band from North Carolina, I had heard so much about them before I got this disc, and I tried not to get my hopes up, but this is awesome. The Jumpstarts are full of soul. This disc is not to be missed. My only complaint...This CD is just what it says...A little bit. After listening to it, I was screaming for more. Pop this in and you'll be doin' the ska in no time!



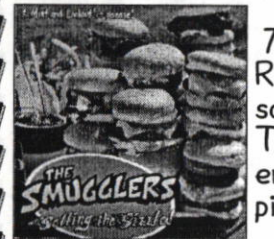
Rockin' Steady: The Best of Desmond Dekker (Rhino)
What can be said about the godfather of ska? This is one rad disc. It's a great introduction to rocksteady if you want to get into it. It has all of Desmond's hits, from his solo career to his years with the Aces. Classic songs like 007 (Shanty Town) and Israelites are on this. One thing I love about this is that the recording quality isn't 100%, it sounds like real vinyl, the way it was meant to be played.



Buck O Nine: Barfly (Taang! Records)
I'll admit, the first time I heard this I really didn't like it so I put it off to the side and came back to it. It is a decent disc. They do a good mixture of ska and punk which is nothing new, but they do have their own distinct sound. This album also has a couple good cover songs on it. Teenagers from Mars and Sound System.



Skankin' Pickle: Skankin' Pickle Fever (Dill Records)
As far as I know, this album is out of print. But I heard rumors of a reissuing of it sometime next year. Pickle is as crazy as ever on this album. The thing that's cool about them is that they mix all sorts of music, and it comes out sounding great. This album has a couple rad instrumentals that are definitely worth checking out. Buy this if you can find it.



The Smugglers: Selling the Sizzle (Mint/Lookout!)
Rockabilly punk. These nice Canadian boys have a great sound of their own that I haven't heard anyone else duplicate. They are phenomenal live, and recording they're just as energetic. I can't say why I like this so much, but it is worth pickin' up!

On January 2 of this year, the Bill Wennington Fan Club Reunited for one more show, but in usual Fan Club fashion, the show wouldn't go as smoothly planned. It started out innocently enough our good friends the Nuclear Family, Intact, and the Lowbrows were set to open the evening and we were to close it. What we weren't aware of was the two bands that had been added to the bill. No big deal, we would still get to go on when we needed to. The eleven o'clock hour approached and the crowd started to get smaller, but the faithful still remained. Nuclear Family finished their set, and we started to take our equipment on stage. Someone we had never seen or heard of stopped us; they asked us if we were in the next band. We said yes, and he then informed us that his band CANVAS was the next band... We asked nicely, informing him that this was our reunion show, a couple members had to get home because they had school the next day. Well then CANVAS informed us that they were only going to play for twenty minutes, and we should leave them alone and get off stage. We pleaded our case again then they said a few choice words, we decided not to start an altercation turned around and left the stage. Well, when some of the crowd saw what happened, they decided to start throwing things at CANVAS while they were on. The Fan Club had nothing to do with this, we were all containing ourselves on the side of the stage. After CANVAS' set, their drummer decided to not only take it out on us, but take it out on a couple of our friends, he jumped off the stage and punched our trombone player and his girlfriend. Why would you hit someone that had nothing to do with the situation let alone hit a girl. After this incident, we finally got to play for the first time in six months... an overwhelming crowd-pleasing set of four songs. Cut down slightly from our 12 song set.

I don't think it would be right to put all of the blame on CANVAS, some of it had to do with the promoter, he shouldn't have had so many bands on one bill, but what occurred on that evening didn't have to happen, bands need to show Unity or they will never get anywhere.

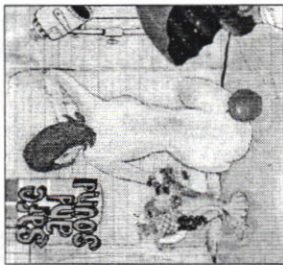
A side note, the Bill Wennington Fan Club will more than likely have a couple shows this summer, I will try and keep everyone informed.

RECORD REVIEWS

Note: These are purely my opinion, based on my tastes.

Safe and Sound: Various Artists (Big Rig/Mercury Records)

This is a benefit compilation put together by 16 Boston bands. When I got it, I was a little uneasy on buying it, cause usually albums like this aren't that good. But this disc is awesome. Some of the bands are new to me, and I'm sure that they'll be making names for themselves very soon. This disc covers many different genres of music, and is definitely worth your money. One other note, this disc has what I believe is the last Belly song recorded. Check out the Bosstones track and the letters to Cleo track as well.

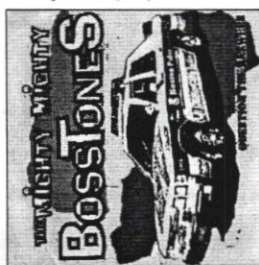


Squirrel Nut Zippers: Hot (Mammoth Records)

Swing is back! This is the sophomore release by the S.N.Z.'s, and it doesn't miss. Listening to this album drops you right in the heart of the 20's, the better tracks are Got my Own Thing Now, and Put a Lid on It. An added bonus on this album is that it is also an interactive CD. Check this out if you dig swing.



Mighty Mighty Bosstones: Question the Answers (Big Rig) The Bosstones' 1994 release isn't my favorite, but does rank up there with the others. They do their usual ska-core sound, this album seemed to have a different attitude behind it. Overall, this is a rad disc. Check out Bronzing the Garbage and Jump through the Hoops.



The Pietasters: Self-titled (Slug-Tone Records)

The pietasters don't slack on their first release, (you might have a hard time finding this cause it's out of print, but if you look hard enough, you can find one, I've seen four copies in the last few months). This has some great tracks on it, it only has a couple of low spots on the entire album, I highly recommend this.



Safe And Sound

On December 30, 1995, the lives of two women were taken by the hands of a mad gunman. Shannon Lowmy and Lee Ann Nichols were secretaries in Planned Parenthood clinics in Brookline, Massachusetts. The gunman, John C. Salvi III, opposed abortion and decided to take matters into his own hands and open fire in the clinics. On March 18, 1996 John Salvi was convicted of two counts of first degree-murder. He was sentenced to two consecutive life terms in prison without parole. He would not live to finish his sentence. On November 30, he took his own life in his prison cell by suffocating himself.

In the wake of the tragedy, Boston bands got together and formed a series of benefit shows for the two women. A week long concert series raised money for many charities, battered women shelters, and other places to ensure safety in women's clinics. Virtually every band in Boston was involved in this. From the smallest local band to the biggest national act that didn't forget it's roots. When Aerosmith received word of what was going on, they immediately sent a check for \$5000 to the cause. To keep Shannon and Lee Ann's memories alive, a benefit CD was made. Sixteen of Boston's biggest bands donated new and unreleased material to the album. I urge you to find this album, it's a great album and a good cause.

"A self-proclaimed crusader who uses a gun to get his/her point across is nothing more than a fearful and cowardly thug. This country is based on the freedom to believe what you believe, which is only possible if you allow others the same freedom." - Jennifer Trynin

"Killing in the name of life is the ultimate hypocrisy. You can be sure that once our freedom of choice is taken away, other freedoms will soon start disappearing." - Juliana Hafield

"The people that fight on the front lines of the continuing and increasingly dangerous struggle to protect choice are truly heroic. Hopefully the time is not far off when basic human rights are indisputable and can't be revised or taken away." - Tanya Donnelly

10 WAYS TO TELL IF YOUR BAND IS A PUNK BAND...

1. You have a song about being ripped off.
2. People call you \$ellouts after your first album gets put out.
3. You break up and reform on a regular basis.
4. You call every tour your last.
5. You're at odds with another label for no particular reason.
7. You get in fights with other bands for no reason.
8. Your 1983 Ford Conversion Van becomes your address.
9. Your only media exposure is in a fan-zine.
10. the Outhouse.

What Is a WANKER?

For those of you that went to shows in the Daily Grind, or live in the Kansas City/ Overland Park area, you have probably seen people walking around in shirts that have the word 'WANKERS' printed on the front of them...A lot of people ask us 'Wankers' why we have those shirts, well now I will reveal the meaning behind them.

On the first day of our senior year in high school, we arrived to see a bunch of the 'Gap Girls' wearing shirts that said 'SENIORS' on them...We all tried not to laugh, but we couldn't hold back...We then decided to return their joke with one of our own...so we collected the money, went to the printer and got the shirts made...It was hilarious that morning when we all met up before school...Most of the school was around us, and all 20 of us in this huge group standing there in our 'Wankers' shirts...After that, we kept wearing them as a constant reminder to the school and the people as to how silly they can really be...So there isn't as much meaning as most of you were probably thinking, but it's damn funny to us.

SAFE AND SOUND

A BENEFIT IN RESPONSE TO THE
BROOKLINE CLINIC VIOLENCE

A COMPILATION FEATURING
NEW TRACKS FROM
16 ARTISTS INCLUDING

LETTERS TO CLEO
WITH CHARLIE CHESTERMAN

MORPHINE
BELLY

TRACY BONHAM

DELUXX FOLK IMPLOSION

AIMEE MANN

THE MIGHTY MIGHTY BOSSTONES

JENNIFER TRYNN

GIGOLO AUNTS

MARY LOU LORD

S C A R C C

JULIANA HATFIELD

BILL JANOVITZ OF BUFFALO TOM

FLYNN

KEVIN SALEM

WUONG

ALBUM IN STORES NOW

HEPCAT

My friend Amy and I ran into Hepcat before their show on November 10 at the Granada, and they answered a few questions for us. Feel free to call this Short Attention Span interview, because we weren't expecting to run into them, so we didn't have a list of questions ready.

Who are you, and what do you do for your band?

E: My name is Efiren Santana, and I play tenor sax

D: My name is David Fuentes, I play bass.

You just did a video for 'Bobby and Joe,' What do you plan on doing with it?

E: We just needed to do it, we're going to see what happens.

Nothing is really set right now.

D: It might be on a compilation of videos, but we're just holding on to it for now.

Why did you put 'Scientific out on BYO Records, which is primarily a punk label?

E: They were willing to help us, and Moon was to far away for us.

Has this tour been a good experience for the band?

D: Yes, it's great, we're playing with different and bigger crowds. The BossTones are great too.

Is it true a couple members left the band?

E: No, our trumpet player is going to school so he couldn't go with us, and our other singer has a play that he's in right now, but they're both still in the band.

Anything you would like to add?

E: We hope you have fun cause we know we will.

Thank a lot guys. Hepcat has a new album out on BYO Records called 'Scientific' and they will finish out their fall tour with the BossTones.

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SHOW SOME RESPECT!

"So there we are, at the Warped Tour, watching Rocket From the Crypt, and we're dodging all of these flying objects, then all of a sudden, this one thing comes right towards our heads, we duck, then we turn around to see what it was, and all that's left is a pile of broken glass...someone in the crowd threw a damn glass bottle towards the stage!" [Betty from Red Five]

It seems all to commonplace now to go to a concert and have to dodge flying projectiles from behind you...Why is this? Do we think the bands are going to say "Gee, they're throwing bottles at us! It must be love!" No, they're saying "When the hell can we get off this damn stage?" Personally, when people throw things at me, I think "how immature..." or "Goodness golly, I better get my ass out of here!" In the past, bands didn't have as much of a problem with this as they do now. Bands used to say "I hope we have a good show!" Now they're saying "I hope we don't have to dodge bottles tonight."

A lot of people have gotten hurt because of things landing on the stage. I don't recall who, but the lead singer of one band broke his leg after slipping on a bottle thrown on the stage; He was really into the show that night, jumped off the drum platform and landed on a bottle. Michael Stipe from R.E.M. had pocket change embedded in his shoulder after a fan threw a handful of money from the top of an arena, the money went through two layers of shirts then into his arm.

Bands go through a lot of obstacles to perform for us, the fans, they deal with broken down busses and vans, 100+ degree weather, living off of fast food (if they even get food), sleeping on floors, and numerous other things fans couldn't even imagine. Show bands some respect!

Selling Out or \$\$\$?

Everyone and their cousin's monkey has an opinion on this subject, here are my answers to some common questions.

Why do bands go to major labels?

Simple they (the major label) can offer more things such as tour support, distribution, studio time, and a lot more. A minor label can offer these things too, but not as much or to the extent of a major.

Is it the fact that a band is making money people can't accept?

Heaven forbid that a band would be able to live off of something they love to do, which is playing music. If you could make a living doing something you really want to do, more than likely you would jump at that chance.

Are the fans afraid that the band will forget them?

They shouldn't be, look at bands like the Bosstones, they have a week long series of concerts two or three times a year in their hometown, getting in some pretty good bands, they aren't going to do that in just any town.

Do bands change their sound because of force from a major label?

I have never seen or heard of this happening, bands evolve there are certain things that change a bands outlook or attitude, this will have an affect on their sound.

True music fans shouldn't worry about all of this anyway, listen to music to hear music, don't worry about the business aspects.

LESS THAN JAKE

I had the great honor to speak with Less Than Jake after their rockin'set at the Granada on November 22, please read on...

For Legal purposes,, your name and what you do for the band.

C: Chris, guitar and sing.

V: Vinnie, I'm drums.

J: I'm Jessica, I play tenor sax, Buddy plays trombone, Roger plays bass, and Derin plays the berry sax, and Sean drives us all over the place, they're not here.

Jessica, are you the teacher?

J: Yes.

What happened with that, cause last time you were in KC, they said that you were teaching, and now you're here?

J: I couldn't dick the kids over with a month long substitute right when I was going to quit my job, so I had to stick it out, it was the hardest month of my life, wanting to be in one place, but being forced to stay in another. I quit when school got out. Someday I might go back...not to the same public school system, but definitely some form of teaching.

You guys tour non-stop, making it to Kansas 3 or four times in that time, is their a reason that you tour so much?

C: Pretty much the last year and a half, this has been like the fifth national tour, prior to that, we were doin Florida for a while...We just try to make sure that the Midwest is one of the places we try to cross over.

So, with all of that touring, you probably have some interesting stories or road antics.

C: Oh God, I don't know where to begin.

J: A lot of nakedness (and to prove this, when Skavovvie and the Epitones were on, the entire band mooned the audience, or ran across stage naked, in the middle of a song)

So you're named after Luke Skywalker's X-Wing, correct?

J: Yes.

Are you excited about the re-release of Star Wars?

A: Yeah, I am

B: It's a great thing for all of the kids that never saw it.

J: I only saw it once.

That's UnAmerican!

J: I'm just joking, I own the trilogy and all of the books.

B: Please, no more Star Wars, I am getting sad.

Okay, Was the Warped Tour a good experience, and would you do it again?

J: It was a great experience both times, I don't know if we would do it again.

Did anything come out of it?

J: A lot of friends.

B: Good exposure too.

A: Definitely, at least a couple kids at each show mention that Warped Tour was the first time they saw us.

M: It was the best tan I have ever had.

For your last quote, is there anything you would like to tell the readers?

A: Contrary to popular belief, I am not a teen idol or icon. I am just a normal everyday guy-

M: -and he didn't play drums on the album, Dave Grohl did, or was it the guy from Goldfinger...

Do you know them?

J: One of them lived in my house...So does Bunny Sunshine.

Who's that, it sounds like a stripper, should I know her.

J: It's a guy, you'll know someday.

A: He's more like a pimp...

There is a little more from this interview, but I'm gonna save it...

Thank you so much kids, you were super cool to me and I really appreciate it...



Red Five

Red Five was nice enough to let me hang with them and ask them some questions before their show at the Grand Emporium on November 16. I want to thank them again for tolerating my stupidity...Half way through the interview, I noticed the tape recorder locked up...please read on and enjoy. Okay, sorry about the technician's stupidity... Your names again, and what you do...

J: Jenni, Guitar, and stop apologizing.

M: Mitch, Bass.

A: Kenny G...no wait, Danger Bob, no...I'm Adam, Drums.

Cheap advertising: Red Five reads Mercurial Zine, and so should you!

B: Betty, Guitar and Vox.

You've been on the road for quite sometime, making it to Kansas 2 or 3 times in that span, How do you keep your health and sanity?

J: You keep your health and sanity by reading or writing.

B: You listen to music, try and get time to yourself, being on this bus is easier, cause you can climb into your bunk and get away.

Any interesting road antics that have happened?

A: Well, we had a flat tire, and I ended up naked on the side of the road with a sign saying "We Need a Jack!" Nobody stopped.

M: until he put my clothes back on.

J: Adam gave mitch a pair of girlie underwear and made him touch them.

Doesn't it get annoying being compared to other female led bands that don't sound anything like you just because they are fronted by grrls?

J: Yes!

B: It would be nice if sometimes people were more original with the questions they ask.

J: I can see why people do, they just don't have questions to ask. Or they're to lazy to be original.

Was there any particular reason for signing with interscope?

J: They're a good label with good bands, and they're good to their bands.

You guys are the marketing kings, with all of the shirts, yo-yo's and other L.T.J. paraphernalia, any reason for that?

V: anything with your name on it helps.

J: It's fun too.

Are you gonna get L.T.J. Pez dispensers?

C: We talked about it, just to do the mold is \$2000, after that everything is cheap...

V: Eventually.

What do you want the design to be?

C: Probably the monster from our new CD.

The deal with Capitol Records...

C: Is great, we get our record in stores, we still have our merchandise, we book our own tours, it's worked out great.

Are you still good terms with Mike (Park) at Dill or Asian Man records?

J: Yeah totally.

Can you explain to the kids what that whole Asian Man/Dill Records thing is?

C: Mike Park used to be in Skankin' Pickle, and he left them to do what he always wanted to do which was to start his own label...He took the bands that he invested in out of his own pocket...(this means that Asian Man Records has the rights to: Slapstick's Lookit!, Less Than Jake's: Pezcore, and Misfits of Ska)

Is Dill still around and is there any animosity?

C: Yes Skankin' Pickle now runs Dill, and there is no animosity what so ever-

J: Not with us and them, maybe between them.

You do a lot of split 7"s, is that to expose other bands or self-promotion?

J: They're the best, it's about friendship, and both bands are helpin' each other out.

What's in store for the immediate future?

J: Finish touring, then a break, then in February go back out on tour.

C: We might do an east coast tour with the Suicide Machines.

To finish, is there anything that you have always wanted to say in an interview?

J: Let me be Chris: Bave your Sheaver.

C: I have elephantiasis...I don't know what to say.

(After he informed me of his disorder, I had to make a Breakfast Club reference)

Have you ever seen a picture of a guy with elephantiasis of the nuts? How would you go on a date with him, I mean, his nuts would have to ride shotgun.

C: I'll take Jessica on a date, I'd show up on a Vespa with a side car.

The side-car being for Jessica?

J: No, I would have to ride on the back.

J: Do you know what Vespa means?

C: It's Czechoslovakian for vaginal fart.

(The interview went on for a few more minutes, but the tape ran out)
Thank for the interview guys and gal.



Chris and Jessica

A FEW THINGS I FIND INCREDIBLY SCARY...

Clowns...need I say anymore

Toilets that flush themselves...what is really in those windows? I mean how do these things *really* work?

Hippies...How is it that they show up everywhere, it seems like there is at least one in every place I go.

Mini M & M's...Why do these things need to be any smaller?

the Oscar Mayer kid...If everyone truly has fifteen minutes of fame, Why would you waist it on singing about fake, imitation meat?

the Gerber baby...She's like 76 years old, what's her secret to staying young? Simple she must be a witch.

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